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SECURITY INFORMATION

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

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Officer Mobilization and Demobilization Data

1. Source was able to supply the following information on mobilization and demobilization of ground forces officers of the USSR.

- a. Career Officers (Kadrovyye ofitsery)

Career officers were those who spent their entire adult life on active duty. They were all graduates of the various military schools. In addition, any officer on active duty with the Soviet Ground Forces was considered a career officer.

- b. Reserve Officers (Ofitsery zapasa)

Reserve officers were those who would be called to active duty in the event of mobilization. This group of officers included those who gained their commissioned status while serving as EM in World War II and were subsequently released at the conclusion of the war, those released because of officer ceilings, and those released for reasons of poor health, etc.

2. All officers released from active duty were compelled to join the reserves. Upon release from active duty they registered with the proper military authorities in their zone (Rayvoyenkomat). While there were no weekly or monthly training periods, reserve officers, annually, had to participate in one to 1½ months of military training. This training was organized and conducted by the Rayvoyenkomat. Officers were not members of any specific reserve unit other than the Rayvoyenkomat.

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3. Source stated that any officer who had not graduated from a military academy (Voyenaya Akademiya) could obtain a rank no higher than captain, regardless of his qualifications.

EM Mobilization and Demobilization Data

4. Source was able to give the following information on mobilization and demobilization of EM of the Soviet Ground Forces:

a. Three Year Volunteers

This group was made up of 18-year-olds who did not want to wait until the draft age of 19 before starting their military service. The advantage of volunteering included the right to choose a branch of service and complete the required three years of service at an earlier age. After routine processing and acceptance there was no basic difference between a volunteer and a draftee.

b. Draftee

All 19-year-olds had to register with the Voyenkomat, and then await call to active duty for a three year period. This period normally began in September and ended in September three years later. However, it often happened that draftees were called to active duty several months before the normal mobilization date in September, but these men still were released on a demobilization date in September. Hence, draftees frequently served more than three years.

c. Sverkhstrochnik

This term was applied to soldiers (draftees or volunteers) who remained on duty after completing the required three years of service. 1.

EM in this category received the grade of a non-commissioned officer, the exact rating depending on various factors. They had officer privileges, received the pay of an officer, messed in a company-grade officers' mess, worked an eight hour day, had pass and leave privileges of officers, etc. In spite of these incentives, very few men remained on duty after completing the required three years of service.

5. When ready for demobilization in September, soldiers were formed into packets (groups) and sent to the address which they designated. This address did not have to be their home town. Packets destined for distant areas, such as Siberia, were formed first. They were organized at Frankfurt/Oder. Soldiers residing in European Russia were sent out last.

Upon arrival at his destination, the demobilized soldier was authorized a 15 day period of grace which he could use as he saw fit. At the end of this period he was compelled to register with the Rayvoyenkomat. Any soldier who failed to register was severely dealt with, for example, to the extent of five years imprisonment.

The demobilized soldier was allotted 30 days in which to seek employment. If he returned to his former residence, he could demand his former job which the employer was compelled to give him. It was mandatory that the demobilized soldier be employed at the end of this 30 day period. Thereupon, he again reported to the Rayvoyenkomat and registered his place of employment. If he had not found

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a job within this period, an investigation was conducted to ascertain the reason. A demobilized soldier could be severely punished for malingering. Source stated that it was almost impossible not to find some kind of employment.

Every demobilized soldier was considered a member of the Reserves and remained in that status indefinitely. Those demobilized in the grade of junior sergeant or higher, in all branches, underwent one to two months of military training once every three years. This policy also applied to members of the Tank Corps, Air Force, and Navy, regardless of grade. This reserve training was organized and conducted by the Rayvoyenkomat. There was no training required for other demobilized EM; they merely registered.

6. In the event of an emergency, Source believed that reservists could be recalled in one or two days. The Rayvoyenkomat would receive orders from higher headquarters (Oblastnoy Voenkomat) and then alert persons required to fill quotas.

1. Comment: There is no status comparable to Sverkhstrochnik in the US Army.

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